

Filed for intro on 01/10/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 599
By Odom

A RESOLUTION to designate January 21-27, 2002 as "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Nurse Anesthetists were the first professional group to provide anesthesia in the United States and are the oldest recognized group of advanced practice registered nursing specialists; and

WHEREAS, these specially trained registered nurses have completed a graduate-level educational program in a nationally accredited program of nurse anesthesia and after graduation are qualified to take the national certifying examination; and

WHEREAS, graduates who successfully pass the examination can use the title, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), and, in addition, all graduates of nurse anesthesia programs in Tennessee receive a master's degree upon completion of the rigorous academic and clinical curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the 1,100 members of the Tennessee Association of Anesthetists provide anesthesia services in all settings in Tennessee; and

HJR0599

01035716

WHEREAS, according to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, more than 65% of all rural hospitals rely on CRNAs to provide anesthesia care, and without these advanced practice nurses some 1,500 facilities would be unable to maintain trauma stabilization, surgical, and obstetrical capabilities, forcing many rural Americans to travel long distances for such services; and

WHEREAS, each year, CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, physicians' offices, and the medical facilities of the United States military, veterans' administration, and public health service, administer 65% of the 26 million anesthetics given to patients in the United States, and in rural communities, the percentage is even higher; and

WHEREAS, the period of January 21-27, 2002, has been designated as Nurse Anesthetists Week nationwide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the week of January 21-27, 2002, is hereby designated "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Tennessee to recognize the importance of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and their crucial role in providing quality health care to the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.